



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE STATE'S ATTORNEY FOR HOWARD COUNTY

For Immediate Release:

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Taneytown Man Pleads Guilty in 2016 Fatal Auto Collision

A Taneytown man was sentenced to four years in prison after pleading guilty to a single count of negligent homicide by motor vehicle-under the influence of alcohol in Howard County Circuit Court on Monday. Daniel Cody Lipscomb, 25, of 76 Fairground Road, was the driver of a car that struck a tree in Columbia on September 9, 2016, killing his passenger— an acquaintance— Audrey Elizabeth Birmingham, 21 of Baltimore.

Howard County police responded to the area of Columbia Road and Hemlock Cone Way in the Dorsey Hall neighborhood at 3 a.m. on September 10, 2016 for a single vehicle collision. Lipscomb's 2014 Chevrolet Cruze struck a tree on the side of the road. He was lying on his back outside of the vehicle where the responding police officer noted that his voice was slurred. Birmingham was in the front passenger seat, suffering from extensive injuries. She was pronounced dead at the scene. An officer noted the strong odor of an alcohol beverage inside the vehicle.

Lipscomb was transported to the University of Maryland Shock Trauma Center where blood was drawn during his treatment. Assistant State's Attorney Tricia Cecil told the court that Lipscomb's blood alcohol content was a .12 when it was drawn—above the legal limit of .08. At Shock Trauma, Lipscomb told police that he had no recall about the accident. He had been drinking with a group of friends, including Birmingham, at DePaola's Pub in Halethorpe during the hours prior to the accident. Cecil also stated that at the time of the accident, Lipscomb was on probation for a 2014 driving while impaired arrest in Carroll County.

The courtroom was filled with grief-stricken friends and family of both Audrey Birmingham and Lipscomb who tearfully apologized to Birmingham's family. Noting victim impact statements and photographs he received, Judge Richard S. Bernhardt took note of Birmingham's love of holidays, remarking, "It's a shame that the world has lost another person like that." He sentenced Lipscomb to five years in prison, suspending all but four years and ordered that Lipscomb serve five years on supervised probation upon his release. At that time Lipscomb must also submit to random urinalysis, along with drug and alcohol evaluation, testing and treatment and education. He was also ordered to pay for and have installed, an ignition interlock on his vehicle the first two years following his release.

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